REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 20, 2005. Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the application. In view of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the references cited in the Search Report dated 7/16/2002 have been considered, but will not be listed on any patent resulting from the application because they were not provided on a separate list in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1). Applicants respectfully point out that the category "Y" references from the Search Report dated 7/16/2002 are duplicative of the references cited in the IDS submitted on 6/6/01 and are therefore already of record and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1). A "Y" reference is indicative of a document of particular relevance and a ''A" reference are documents defining the general state of the art which are not considered to be of particular relevance. As such, the Applicants respectfully decline to include the "A" references from the Search Report dated 7/16/2002 in a separate IDS as they are not considered to be of particular relevance.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS

In the Office Action, the Specification was objected to for the misspelling of the word "region". By means of the present amendment, the Specification has been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent. 5,963,264 (hereinafter Jackson).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 are patentable over Jackson for at least the following reasons and are therefore allowable.

Jackson, as understood by the Applicants, relates to a television receiving device which controls a video cassette recorder (VCR) or similar television related device. Jackson provides a method of eliminating the need to program a VCR. A user interface on a satellite television receiver at the subscriber sites performs two functions (1) allows a user to designate a particular model VCR and hardware specific VCR IR codes, which are stored in a nonvolatile memory, and (2) presents program scheduling information to the user to allow the user to select from the EPG, programs to be recorded by the VCR, the programs also stored in a non-volatile memory. (See Jackson at Col. 2, lines 40-60). The satellite receiver at the subscriber site continuously monitors the data stream for updates to the EPG so that recording operations may be coordinated to reflect last minute changes

to programming schedules. (See Jackson at Col. 2, lines 60-67). At the time a desired program is to be broadcast, the satellite receiver activates an IR signal generator, and passes to it the hardware specific VCR IR codes selected for the specified VCR model. The satellite receiver then controls the VCR operations by transmitting a high powered, broadcasted IR signal required to control the VCR. (See Jackson at Col. 1, line 67 – Col. 2, lines 1-5). The method of Jackson permits a recording process to begin when the programming selection is actually aired, and not necessarily when the program selections were originally scheduled to begin. Jackson discloses at Col. 5, lines 50-67, a CPU 16 monitors the data downlinked signals 3 to determine when the programming selection that matches the EPG selection 7 begins.

It is therefore shown that the method of Jackson involves pre-storing desired programs in a satellite receiver, monitoring downlinked signals to determine when the downlinked signal matches the pre-stored desired program and generating an IR VCR command to both "start" and "stop" recording by the VCR when there is a match. By continuously monitoring the downlinked digital data stream for updates to the EPG, recording operations on the VCR may be coordinated to reflect last minute changes to programming schedules.

In sharp contrast to Jackson, the present invention does not perform updates to an EPG. Instead, the present invention generates signatures representing characteristic data from frames from the beginning and end of a particular program and stores those signatures in an EPG catalog. It is noted that "characteristic data" and not "EPG data" is stored in the EPG catalog.

Typical signatures representing such "characteristic data" gathered from a program may include, for example, a color histogram generated from a frame of a program (see claim 6), close captioning data generated from a frame of a program (see claim 7), the audio portion from one or more frames of a program (see claim 8), a block of discrete cosine values for a frame (see claim 9) and low level features from one or more frames of a program (see claim 10).

Jackson is silent with respect to the generation of signatures from frames of a program. As noted above, the method of Jackson involves initially storing EPG data, which is a form of meta-data, distinct from "characteristic data", related to a user desired program and thereafter updating the EPG data in real time based on information from a downlinked signal.

Accordingly, there is no teaching or disclosure in Jackson of *obtaining a first value representing characteristics data of said at least one program at said start time; and storing said first value in said catalog; and obtaining a second value representing characteristics data of said at least one program at said end time; and storing said second value program in said catalog*, as recited in Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that Jackson does not parse, analyze or extract any information whatsoever from a source program. Instead, Jackson is concerned with EPG data and updates to EPG concerning the program of interest to a user.

Further in accordance with the methodology of the present invention, once the signatures, representing such "characteristic data" of at least one program have been

stored in an EPG catalog, they are later retrieved from the EPG catalog when a user selects the particular program for viewing or recording (i.e., a desired program).

A system using the present invention monitors the channel on which the desired program is to be broadcast at a point close to the time the program is scheduled to air. When the characteristic signatures derived directly from the program source are retrieved from the EPG catalog match the characteristic signatures generated by monitoring the channel, the system knows to begin the display and/or recording of the program. Similarly, the system may continue to monitor for the signature indicating the end of the program, so as to stop the display and/or recording at the proper time.

Accordingly, Jackson does not teach or disclose *comparing said first and second (characteristic) values to corresponding values obtained from said program input to determine a start and stop time for said use*, as recited in Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that at least the limitations and/or features of independent Claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct over Jackson. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested and allowance of claim 1is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 depend from independent Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1 and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1 above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claims 2-4 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Dependent Claims 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,100,941 (hereinafter Dimitrova).

Claims 5-10 depend from Claim 1, and therefore includes the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claim 1, Claims 5-10 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 5-10 and allowance of Claims 5-10 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 11-14 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,252,629 (hereinafter Takatori).

With respect to Claim 11, Takatori is cited to cure a deficiency in Jackson. Takatori is cited for teaching: "..obtaining a first value representing characteristic data of an ending of a program immediately proceeding said at least one program.."

It is respectfully submitted that Takatori does not cure the deficiencies of Jackson. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that Takatori does not teach: *obtaining a first value representing characteristics data of said at least one program at said start time; and storing said first value in said catalog; and obtaining a second value representing characteristics data of said at least one program at said end time; and storing said second value program in said catalog*, as recited in Claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that Takatori does not teach: *comparing said first and second value to*

corresponding values obtained from said program input to determine a start and stop time for said user, as recited in Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that at least the limitations and/or features of independent Claim 11 is believed to be patentably distinct over the Jackson and Takatori, alone and in combination. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested and allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-14 depend from Claim 11, and therefore includes the limitations of Claim 11. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claim 11, Claims 12-14 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 12-14 and allowance of Claims 12-14 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 21 recites similar subject matter as Claim 11 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 11. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 11, Claim 21 is believed to recite statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Dependent Claims 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson in view of Dimitrova.

Claims 15-20 depend from Claim 11, and therefore includes the limitations of Claim 11. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claim 11, Claims 15-20 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 15-20 and allowance of Claims 15-20 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Dependent Claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson in view of Kim (US Pat. No. 5,526,130).

With respect to Claim 22, Kim cited to cure a deficiency in Jackson. Kim is cited for teaching: "..monitoring said video signal source at time proximal to said program start time..." and "setting a logic output means to true or false in order to signal the system to stop or continue the comparison, respectively".

It is respectfully submitted that Kim does not cure the deficiencies of Jackson. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 22 recites similar subject matter as independent method Claim 1 and therefore contains the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claim 22 is believed to be allowable Jackson in view of Kim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claim 22 and allowance of Claim 22 is respectfully requested.

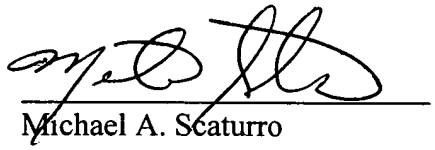
Claims 23-25 depend from Claim 22, and therefore includes the limitations of Claim 22. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claim 22, Claims 23-25 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 23-25 and allowance of Claims 23-25 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-25 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Dicran Halajian, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-333-9607.

Respectfully submitted,



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